

REMEDATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR

November 10, 2005

Environmental Health Conference December 5 & 6

The Environmental Health Network, the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and the U.W. Medical School are once again conducting a conference on environmental health, including the 10th annual session on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment. The conference will be in Madison at the Monona Terrace, **December 5 and 6**. This conference includes continuing education sessions for health care professionals. Among the many topics is a panel on "Improving Environmental Public Health: The roles of advocacy, enforcement, research & individual patient care. For a complete agenda and registration information, please see http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/eh/EH_2005_Conf.htm.

Reminder – December 14 EPA Grant Deadline

Don't forget the **December 14** deadline if you intend to apply for a federal 2006 Brownfield Assessment, Cleanup or Revolving Loan Fund grant. The guidelines for applications are on EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm>. A summary about these grants, plus "Tips for Applicants", is on the DNR web site at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/federal_brfls.htm. The Tips include information about obtaining the required letter of support from DNR. These grants for local governments can provide up to \$200,000 to assess contamination at brownfields, \$200,000 for brownfield cleanup, and up to \$1 million to establish a revolving loan fund.

Effective Date of New EPA All Appropriate Inquiry Rule is November 2006

We announced on October 26 that EPA would publish its new All Appropriate Inquiry" (AII) rule on November 1, 2005. This is true, but the effective date for the rule is November 1, **2006**. This new rule establishes criteria for Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments and accepts a new ASTM Standard for these assessments (ASTM E 1527-05). AII determines Superfund liability and establishes eligibility for EPA brownfield grants. For more information, including options to use before November, 2006 and the definition of environmental professionals, please see EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/regneg.htm>.

For information regarding DNR and ASTM's upcoming training on Phase 1 and 2 environmental site assessments, including the new AII rule, please see http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/general/calendar_detail.htm#11_29.

Notable On-Line Database Improvements

Here are answers to three database questions you may have had:

- Can you search BRRTS on the Web for Public Land Survey Sections (PLSS)? Yes, you now can. We've just added a new feature to the Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS on the Web) that lets you search for sites by PLSS (Town, Range, Section, quarter section & quarter-quarter section). You can find this feature in our advanced search option at <http://botw.dnr.state.wi.us/botw/Welcome.do>. Our previous PLSS values had been obtained through reports received from tank removers, property owners and others and contained significant errors. We have now corrected these locations, primarily through on-screen digitizing using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

- If you're using on-screen digitizing for sites in BRRTS, why don't you provide a GIS map of these sites? That's the plan. We are now completing mapping of the sites listed in the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) and Environmental Repair (ERP) modules of BRRTS. We hope to have a GIS application for these sites available to the public in December.
- What about waste disposal sites? DNR now has that too! Our Waste Program has completed a searchable database that operates much like BRRTS on the Web. It's called SHWIMS on the Web (Solid and Hazardous Waste Information Management System). It includes licensed and unlicensed waste disposal sites, other solid waste processing facilities and a wide range of hazardous waste activities. BRRTS on the Web will automatically show you entries in SHWIMS on the Web when these activities are at the same location – just click on the location name in BRRTS on the Web and check the "Other activities at this location". SHWIMS on the Web is at <http://sotw.dnr.state.wi.us/sotw/Welcome.do>.

SAG Applications Total 69

This fall the RR Program received 69 applications from 36 communities for DNR's Brownfield Site Assessment Grant (SAG) Program. This program provides start-up dollars for communities to assess contamination at brownfields, abandoned or underutilized properties where real or perceived contamination hinders redevelopment.

The 36 communities requested \$2.5 million, \$800,000 more than the \$1.7 million that is available this fiscal year. Of the 69 applications submitted, 58 were for small grants (requesting less than \$30,000) and 11 were for large grants (requesting between \$30,000 and \$100,000).

Applications were due October 20. Program staff will be reviewing applications this fall and may contact applicants with questions or requests for clarification. Funding awards should be announced in February 2006.

This is the seventh grant round for the SAGs -- since 2000, the RR Program has received 450 applications requesting \$17.8 million, and awarded 257 grants and \$8.26 million to 134 Wisconsin communities.

Appendix A to NR 726 Needs an Update

Appendix A to chapter NR 726, Wis. Administrative Code, provides the information that must be included in letters to neighbors of contaminated properties when the state approves case closure with residual contamination that has impacted the neighboring property. There are two telephone numbers in Appendix A that are no longer active phone numbers. The phone numbers were included to help the neighbors obtain a copy of *Guidance for Dealing with Properties Affected by Off-Site Contamination, Fact Sheet 10*, publication #RR-589. However, we've discontinued our statewide information lines as an economy measure, since most people can now find our publications on the internet. Until we are able to complete our rule revisions, please substitute the following language in the third paragraph, last sentence, of your notification letters to affected neighbors:

"For further information on the requirements of section 292.13, Wisconsin Statutes, you may obtain a copy of the Department of Natural Resources' publication #RR-589, Fact Sheet 10: Guidance for Dealing with Properties Affected by Off-Site Contamination, by accessing the following web address: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR589.pdf>.

Our apologies for not catching this problem sooner. Thanks to the user who brought it to our attention.

Upcoming Training from the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC)

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) offers a variety of Internet-based training on environmental technologies. ITRC is a program of the Environmental Research Institute of the States, a nonprofit corporation operating in support of the Environmental Council of the States.

Registration information for the ITRC's free courses is available at: www.itrcweb.org. You can also download ITRC technical and regulatory guidance from this web site.

Upcoming ITRC course dates (registration opens 4-6 weeks in advance):

- Nov. 10th - *Triad Approach: A New Paradigm for Environmental Project Management*, 11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- Nov. 17th - *Constructed Treatment Wetlands*, 11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- Dec. 6th – *Site Investigation and Remediation for Munitions Response Projects*, 2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- Dec. 8th - *Perchlorate: Overview of Issues, Status, and Remedial Options*, 11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- Dec. 13th – *Geophysical Prove-Outs for Munitions Response Projects*, 2:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- Dec. 15th - *Environmental Management at Operational Outdoor Small Arms Firing Ranges*, 11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time

All dates and times are subject to change – check the ITRC web site for up-to-date information.